

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the subject application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of loading a driver into a host coupled to an interconnection fabric including a fabric-attached I/O enclosure, comprising:

assigning a fabric-attached I/O controller that is within said fabric-attached I/O enclosure to the host;

determining the driver to be loaded into the host;

before loading the driver for the fabric-attached I/O controller into the host, sending a verification message to said fabric-attached I/O controller from a fabric control driver of the host via the interconnection fabric to determine whether a communication path exists including determining if a local channel adapter port in the host is initialized and connected from the host to the fabric-attached I/O controller within the fabric-attached I/O enclosure; and

if the fabric-attached I/O enclosure responds to the verification message, then loading the driver into the host.

2. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

alternatively, before loading the driver for the fabric-attached I/O controller into the host, periodically querying the state of a local channel adapter port by the fabric control driver to determine ~~determining~~ whether a host-fabric adapter in the host has been initialized and connected to the interconnection fabric; and

if the host-fabric adapter in the host has been initialized and connected to the interconnection fabric, then loading the driver into the host.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method of loading a list of a plurality of drivers in a plurality of hosts coupled to an interconnection fabric including a plurality of fabric-attached I/O enclosures, comprising:

assigning a plurality of fabric-attached I/O controllers that are within the plurality of fabric-attached I/O enclosures to a plurality of hosts;

determining a list of a plurality of a plurality of drivers to be loaded into the plurality of hosts, the list of plurality of drivers corresponding to the

plurality of fabric-attached I/O controllers;

before loading the list of plurality of drivers into the plurality of hosts, for each of the driver in the list of plurality of drivers, sending a verification message to one of the plurality of fabric-attached I/O controllers that corresponds to the driver in the list of plurality of drivers from a fabric control driver to determine if a local channel adapter port in the host is initialized and connected to the interconnection fabric; and

modifying the list of plurality of drivers based on a reply received in response to the verification message.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 6, further comprising:

determining the list of plurality of drivers, at least in part, by sending a message to a subnet manager to request ~~a list of~~ the plurality of fabric-attached I/O controllers assigned to the plurality of hosts.

9. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, further comprising:

determining the list of plurality of drivers, at least in part, by scanning the interconnection fabric for the plurality of fabric-attached I/O

controllers.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, further comprising:
- obtaining the list of plurality of drivers from a storage.
11. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein:
- receipt of the reply confirms that initialization has been completed of the local channel adapter port, a remote channel adapter port, and forwarding tables in intervening switches within the interconnection fabric that will be used in communication between a given one of the plurality of drivers to be loaded and a corresponding one of the plurality of fabric-attached I/O controllers.
12. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, further comprising:
- notifying the fabric control driver when local channel adapter ports in a given one of the plurality of hosts is configured and ready for fabric connectivity.
13. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having stored thereon instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method for loading a plurality of drivers into a plurality of hosts coupled to an interconnection fabric including a plurality of fabric-attached

I/O enclosures, said method comprising:

assigning a plurality of fabric-attached I/O controllers that are within the plurality of fabric-attached I/O enclosures to the plurality of hosts;

determining a list of the plurality of drivers that correspond to the plurality of fabric-attached I/O controllers to be loaded into the plurality of hosts;

before loading any of the plurality of drivers into the plurality of hosts, for each of the plurality of drivers, sending a verification message to a corresponding fabric-attached I/O controller from a fabric control driver of one of the plurality of hosts to determine if a local channel adapter port in one of the plurality of ~~host~~ hosts is initialized and connected to the interconnection fabric; and

modifying the list of plurality of drivers based on a reply received in response to the verification message messages.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

determining the list of plurality of drivers, at least in part, by sending a message to a subnet manager to request a list of the plurality of fabric-attached I/O controllers assigned to the plurality of hosts.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

determining the list of plurality of drivers, at least in part, by scanning the interconnection fabric for ~~a list of the plurality of~~ fabric-attached I/O controllers.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

obtaining the list of plurality of drivers from a storage.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium as claimed in claim 13, wherein:

receipt of the reply confirms that initialization has been completed of the local channel adapter port, a remote channel adapter port, and forwarding tables in intervening switches within the interconnection fabric that will be used in communication between a given one of the plurality of drivers to be loaded and a corresponding one of the plurality of fabric-attached I/O controllers.

19. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

notifying the fabric control driver when the local channel adapter port in a given one of the plurality of hosts is configured and ready for fabric

connectivity.

20. (Previously Presented) A network comprising:

an interconnection fabric;

a host comprising an operating system and at least one host-fabric

adapter of the host provided to interface with the interconnection fabric; and

a fabric-attached I/O enclosure including at least one fabric-attached I/O controller assigned to the host and attached to the interconnection fabric;

wherein, for a given host-fabric adapter of the at least one host-fabric adapter, and for a given fabric-attached I/O controller of the at least one fabric-attached I/O controller, the operating system within the host:

determines if the given host-fabric adapter has been initialized and connected for fabric communication by sending verification messages from a fabric control driver of the host to the at least one fabric-attached I/O controller; and

if the given host-fabric adapter has been initialized and connected for fabric communication, loading a driver that corresponds to the given fabric-attached I/O controller assigned to the

host, into the host for communication with the at least one fabric-attached I/O controller, via the interconnection fabric.

21. (Previously Presented) A network comprising:

an interconnection fabric;

a host comprising an operating system and at least one host-fabric adapter of the host provided to interface with the interconnection fabric; and

a fabric-attached I/O enclosure including at least one fabric-attached I/O controller assigned to the host and attached to the interconnection fabric;

wherein, for a given host-fabric adapter of the at least one host-fabric adapter, and for a given fabric-attached I/O controller of the at least one fabric-attached I/O controller, the operating system within the host:

determines if the given host-fabric adapter has been initialized and connected for fabric communication by sending verification messages from a fabric control driver of the host to the at least one fabric-attached I/O controller; and

if the given host-fabric adapter has been initialized and connected for fabric communication, loading a driver that corresponds

to the given fabric-attached I/O controller assigned to the host, into the host for communication with the at least one fabric-attached I/O controller, via the interconnection fabric.

22. (Previously Presented) The network as claimed in claim 21, wherein the driver is notified when host-fabric adapter ports are configured and ready for fabric connectivity.
23. (Cancelled)
24. (Cancelled)
25. (Cancelled)